

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-150-07-1220-PA]

Temporary Route Closures of Federal Lands, Montrose County, Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior

ACTION: In accordance with title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 8364.1

Closure and Restriction Orders, notice is hereby given that all lands listed below, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are temporarily closed to motorized and mechanized travel including but not limited to all-terrain vehicles, any type of motor vehicle, motorcycles, snowmobiles, or mountain bicycles.

SUMMARY: This order temporarily closes unauthorized routes on public lands to motorized and mechanized use on the routes within Montrose County, Colorado as identified on the map. Damage to cultural sites, cutting of trees, movement of rock and soil, and trampled vegetation have been documented on the unauthorized routes. BLM anticipates that continued use of these routes by wheeled motorized and mechanized vehicles may cause adverse effects to soil, vegetation, water and cultural resources. The closure will be in effect until subsequent comprehensive travel management planning is completed in the Uncompahgre Field Office. This closure prohibits the use of any motorized or mechanized wheeled vehicles on the identified routes except for authorized uses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This restriction order shall be effective January 3, 2007 and shall remain in effect until a comprehensive travel management plan is completed for the areas. Four of the six routes will be addressed in the travel management plan slated to

begin in early 2007 and take about 18 months to complete. The remaining two routes will be addressed in the Resource Management Plan Revision slated to begin in early 2008.

ADDRESS: Maps of the routes will be available at the Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, Colorado. Additionally, notice of closure will be posted at places near and/or within the area to which the closure applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Sharrow, Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, Colorado 81401; Telephone (970) 240-5315.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This order is issued under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1 by the Closure and Restriction Orders. This order affects identified routes (shown on the maps) on public lands in Montrose County, Colorado, thus described:

1) Public Lands within Meridian 23:

- a. T49N, R10W, Sec. 18
- b. T49N, R11W, Sec. 24
- c. T48N, R11W, Sec. 2 and 11
- d. T48N, R10W, Sec. 8, 17 and 18
- e. T48N, R10W, Sec. 36 & T48N, R9W, Sec. 19 and 30
- f. T48N, R9W, Sec. 19 & T48N, R10W, Sec. 24 and 25

Exceptions to this temporary closure include the following:

- 1. Any Federal, State, or local officers engaged in fire, emergency, and law enforcement activities or other land use authorizations.

2. Persons or agencies holding a special use permit or right-of-way for access to exercise their permit within the restricted area, for purposes related to access for maintenance and operation of authorized facilities, and provided such motorized use is limited to the routes specifically identified in the special use permit or right-of-way.

PENALTIES: Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any closure order issued under 42 CFR 8364.1 shall be subject to the penalties provided for in CFR Title 43, subpart 8360.0-7, and may be fined not more than \$1,000 and/or imprisoned for not more than 12 months. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office